

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. A telephone bill is an invoice, like every other bill. It invoices you for services provided. If we can't know what services are provided, and what they cost, where do you draw the line before fraud enters? I am appalled that at this very basic level of fair play, the communications industry is intent on telling me they want the right to fake up whatever charges they feel like and not tell me. FCC officials, please know that this is not acceptable, and frankly borders on the criminal. It would not be allowed by any other business operating according to established honest business practices. Do your job -- stop this cynical move toward unaccountability. Now.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.